State of California Office of Administrative Law

In re:

Board of Accountancy

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF REGULATORY **ACTION**

Regulatory Action:

Government Code Section 11349.3

Title 16, California Code of Regulations

Adopt sections:

80.1, 80.2, 87.1

Amend sections: 12, 12.5, 37, 80, 81, 87,

87.8, 87.9, 88, 88.1, 88.2,

Repeal sections: 87.1, 87.7

OAL File No. 2013-0729-01 S

This rulemaking action largely conforms California rules for continuing education of accountants to the national standards reflected in the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy's Statement of Standards for Continuing Professional Education (Revised January, 2012). In addition, the action makes continuing education requirements for those applying for reissuance of cancelled licenses, whose practice experience is five or more years old, the same as for those converting from inactive to active status. The action also reduces the amount of continuing education hours that must be spent on issues of fraud.

OAL approves this regulatory action pursuant to section 11349.3 of the Government Code. This regulatory action becomes effective on 1/1/2014.

Date:

9/10/2013

Dale P. Mentink

Senior Staff Counsel

For:

DEBRA M. CORNEZ

Director

Original: Patti Bowers

Copy: Matthew Stanley

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY ORDER OF ADOPTION

The California Board of Accountancy hereby adopts the following changes to Sections 12, 12.5, 37, 80, 80.1, 80.2, 81, 87, 87.1, 87.7, 87.8, 87.9, 88, 88.1, 88.2, and 89 of Division 1 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations as follows:

§ 12. General Experience Required Under Business and Professions Code Section 5092 and 5093.

- (a) In order to meet the experience requirement of Section 5092 or Section 5093 of the Business and Professions Code, experience must be supervised by a person holding a valid, active license or comparable authority to practice public accounting as specified in subdivision (d) of Section 5092 or subdivision (d) of Section 5093. Supervised experience means that the applicant's supervisor shall have reviewed and evaluated the applicant's qualifying work, pursuant to subsection (b) on a routine and recurring basis and shall have authority and oversight over the applicant.
- (1) Experience shall be verified by the person supervising the experience and by a second person with a higher level of responsibility in the public accounting firm, private industry company, or governmental agency. If the experience is obtained in public accounting, the second person signing the verification shall be an owner of the public accounting firm holding a valid license or comparable authority to practice public accounting. If the owner of the public accounting firm or private industry company signing the verification is also the person supervising the experience, no second signature is required.
- (2) Experience may not be supervised by a licensee who provides public accounting services to the applicant's employer.
- (3) (A) All verifications shall be submitted to the Board on Form 11A-29 (5/11) for public accounting experience or Form 11A-29A (5/11) for private industry and governmental accounting experience, which are hereby incorporated by reference, and shall be signed under penalty of perjury.
- (B) If the applicant is unable to obtain the verifications required in subsection (a)(3)(A), the Board may approve other forms of verification if they contain the information as required in subsection (a)(3)(A).
- (b) The experience required by Section 5092 or Section 5093 involves providing any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax, or consulting skills. Qualifying experience may be gained through employment in public accounting, private industry, or government. Experience acquired in academia is not qualifying.
- (c) The experience required by Section 5092 or Section 5093 of the Business and Professions Code may be obtained in full-time or part-time employment provided the total experience completed by the applicant is the equivalent of at least two years of full-time employment for an applicant qualifying under Section 5092 or at least one year of full-time employment for an applicant qualifying under Section 5093. In evaluating an

- applicant's experience, 170 hours of part-time employment shall be considered equivalent to one month of full-time employment.
- (d) An applicant who is applying under Section 5092 or Section 5093 of the Business and Professions Code with experience obtained five (5) or more years prior to application and who has not passed the Uniform CPA Examination during this five-year period shall may be required to obtain 48 complete 80 hours of continuing education, which shall include general accounting, and other comprehensive basis of accounting; and to submit the certificates of completion to the Board meet the following requirements:
- (1) The 80 hours must be completed in the two years preceding receipt of application by the Board.
- (2) All 80 hours must meet the requirements as described in Section 87.
- (3) A minimum of 20 hours must be completed in the one year period immediately preceding the receipt of the application, with a minimum of 12 hours in subject areas described in Section 87(a)(2).
- (4) Certificates of completion must be submitted to the Board and shall contain a verification certified by a program provider representative such as a signature or seal. The certificate of completion must also delineate the subject areas, as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (3), for which the applicant may claim credit.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010, 5092 and 5093, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 5092 and 5093, Business and Professions Code.

§ 12.5. Attest Experience Under Business and Professions Code Section 5095.

- (a) To be authorized to sign reports on attest engagements pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 5095, an applicant for a California Certified Public Accountant license pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 5087, 5092, or 5093 or holder of an unexpired, valid, active California Certified Public Accountant license issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 5087, 5092, or 5093 shall show to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she meets the requirements of this section and Business and Professions Code Section 5095.
- (1) Some or all of the experience required by Section 5095 and this section may be completed prior to issuance of the California Certified Public Accountant license. Any experience that would be qualifying for purposes of Section 5095 and this section may also serve as qualifying experience for purposes of Sections 5092 or 5093. To be qualifying for purposes of Section 5095 and this section, any experience obtained after issuance of the California Certified Public Accountant license must be obtained while the license is held in active status.
- (2) A holder of an active California Certified Public Accountant license may commence signing reports on attest engagements upon receipt of notification from the Board that he or she has met the requirements of this section and Business and Professions Code Section 5095. A holder of an inactive California Certified Public Accountant license may apply under this section, but must convert the license to active status before commencing to sign reports on attest engagements.
- (3) An applicant for the California Certified Public Accountant license who has met the

requirements of this section and Business and Professions Code Section 5095 may commence signing reports on attest engagements upon license issuance.

(b) In order to meet the attest experience requirements of Section 5095 an applicant for or holder of a California Certified Public Accountant license shall show to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has completed a minimum of 500 hours of attest experience.

This experience shall include all of the following:

- (1) Experience in the planning of the audit including the selection of the procedures to be performed.
- (2) Experience in applying a variety of auditing procedures and techniques to the usual and customary financial transactions included in financial statements.
- (3) Experience in the preparation of working papers in connection with the various elements of (1) and (2) above.
- (4) Experience in the preparation of written explanations and comments on the work performed and its findings.
- (5) Experience in the preparation of and reporting on full disclosure financial statements.
- (c) Qualifying experience may be gained through employment in public accounting, private industry, or government. Experience acquired in academia is not qualifying.
- (d) In order to be qualifying, experience obtained pursuant to Section 5095 of the Business and Professions Code must be supervised by a person holding a valid <u>active</u> license or comparable authority to provide attest services as specified in subdivision (b) of Business and Professions Code Section 5095. Supervised experience means that the applicant's supervisor shall have reviewed and evaluated the applicant's qualifying work, pursuant to subsection (b) on a routine and recurring basis and shall have authority and oversight over the applicant.
- (1) Experience shall be verified by the person supervising the experience and by a second person with a higher level of responsibility in the public accounting firm, private industry company, or governmental agency. If the experience is obtained in public accounting, the second person signing the verification shall be an owner of the public accounting firm holding a valid license or comparable authority to practice public accounting. If the owner of the public accounting firm or private industry company signing the verification is also the person supervising the experience, no second signature is required.
- (2) Experience may not be supervised by a licensee who provides public accounting services to the applicant's employer.
- (3) (A) All verifications shall be submitted to the Board on Form 11A-6A (5/11) for public accounting experience or on Form 11A-6 (5/11) for private industry or governmental accounting experience, which are hereby incorporated by reference, and shall be signed under penalty of perjury.
- (B) If the applicant is unable to obtain the verifications required in subsection (d)(3)(A), the Board may approve other forms of verification if they contain the information as required in subsection (d)(3)(A).
- (e) In order to demonstrate the completion of qualifying experience, an applicant for or holder of a California Certified Public Accountant license may be required to appear before the Qualifications Committee to present work papers, or other evidence, substantiating that his or her experience meets the requirements of Section 5095 of the

Business and Professions Code and of subsection (b) of this section.

- (f) The applicant who is applying with attest experience obtained outside the United States and its territories must present work papers substantiating that such experience meets the requirements of subsection (b) and generally accepted auditing standards. Alternatively, the applicant may acquire a minimum of 500 hours of United States experience which meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code Section 5095 and subsection (b).
- (g) The An applicant who is applying with experience obtained five (5) or more years prior to application and who has not passed the Uniform CPA Examination during this five-year period shall may be required to obtain 48 complete 80 hours of continuing education, which shall include financial accounting standards, auditing standards, compilation and review and other comprehensive basis of accounting; and to submit the certificates of completion to the Board. meet the following requirements:
- (1) The 80 hours must be completed in the two years preceding receipt of application by the Board.
- (2) All 80 hours must meet the requirements as described in Section 87.
- (3) The 80 hours must be completed as follows:
- (A) A minimum of 20 hours must be completed in the one year period immediately preceding receipt of application, with a minimum of 12 hours in subject areas described in Section 87(a)(2).
- (B) 16 hours in financial accounting standards.
- (C) 16 hours in auditing standards.
- (D) 8 hours in compilation and review.
- (E) 8 hours in other comprehensive basis of accounting.
- (F) 8 hours in the prevention, detection, and/or reporting of fraud affecting financial statements.
- (4) Certificates of completion must be submitted to the Board and shall contain a verification certified by a program provider representative such as a signature or seal. The certificate of completion must also delineate the subject areas for which the applicant may claim credit.
- (h) The experience required by Sections 5092, 5093, or 5095 of the Business and Professions Code may be obtained in full-time or part-time employment provided the total experience completed by the applicant is the equivalent of at least two years of full-time employment for an applicant qualifying under Section 5092 or at least one year of full-time employment for an applicant qualifying under Section 5093. In evaluating an applicant's experience, 170 hours of part-time employment shall be considered equivalent to one month of full-time employment.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5095, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5023, 5092, 5093 and 5095, Business and Professions Code.

§ 37. Reissuance.

(a) A certified public accountant (CPA) whose certificate has been cancelled by the operation of Business and Professions Code Section 5070.7 may apply for and obtain a new certificate if the applicant is otherwise qualified under the provisions of Section

- 5070.7 and the applicant meets the requirements of subsection (a) or (b) (b) or (c) of this section. The reissued certificate will permit the CPA to perform the same services as did the cancelled certificate except that a CPA whose cancelled certificate authorized signing reports on attest engagements may choose to be reissued a certificate that does not provide this authorization.
- (a) (b) An applicant who is applying for a reissued certificate shall, Within within three two years prior to receipt preceding the date of application, the applicant has completed complete at least 48 80 hours of continuing education that meets the following requirements: as specified in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this subsection and has submitted the certificates of completion for those courses to the Board:
- (1) For an applicant whose reissued certificate will authorize signing reports on attest engagements, courses in the following subject areas are required: financial accounting standards, auditing standards, compilation and review, and other comprehensive basis of accounting. the 80 hours must be completed as follows:
- (A) The 80 hours must be completed in the two years preceding receipt of application.
- (B) All 80 hours must meet the requirements as described in Section 87.
- (C) Within the 80 hours, the following minimums must be met:
- (i) A minimum of 20 hours must be completed in the one year period immediately preceding receipt of application, with a minimum of 12 hours in subject areas described in Section 87(a)(2).
- (ii) 16 hours in financial accounting standards.
- (iii) 16 hours in auditing standards.
- (iv) 8 hours in compilation and review.
- (v) 8 hours in other comprehensive basis of accounting.
- (vi) 8 hours in the prevention, detection, and/or reporting of fraud affecting financial statements.
- (2) For an applicant whose reissued certificate will not authorize signing reports on attest engagements, courses in the following subject areas are required: general accounting, and other comprehensive basis of accounting. 80 hours must be completed as follows:
- (A) The 80 hours must be completed in the two years preceding receipt of application by the Board.
- (B) All 80 hours must meet the requirements as described in Section 87.
- (C) A minimum of 20 hours must be completed in the one year period immediately preceding receipt of application, with a minimum of 12 hours in subject areas described in Section 87(a)(2).
- (3) Certificates of completion must be submitted to the Board and shall contain a verification certified by a program provider representative such as a signature or seal. The certificate of completion must also delineate the subject areas for which the applicant may claim credit.
- (b) (c) In lieu of meeting the requirements of subsection (a) (b) of this section, the applicant may choose to retake and successfully complete the entire Uniform CPA examination.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5018, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5070.7, Business and Professions Code.

§ 80. Inactive License Status.

(a) Upon application, a licensee may have his/her license placed in an inactive status. (a)(b) The holder of a license in an inactive status shall not engage in the practice of public accountancy as defined in Section 5051 of the Business and Professions Code. This section does not prohibit a holder of a license in an inactive status from receiving a share of the net profits from a public accounting firm or other compensation from a public accounting firm, provided that the licensee does not otherwise engage in the practice of public accountancy.

(b)(c) A license in an inactive status shall be renewed during the same time period in which a license in an active status is renewed. The renewal fee for a license in an inactive status shall be the same as the renewal fee for a license in an active status. (c)(d) The continuing education requirements described in Section 87 are not applicable at the time of renewal for a licensee renewing a license in an inactive status. (d)(e) At the time of renewal, the holder of a license in an inactive status may convert his/her license to an active status by paying the renewal fee and complying with the continuing education requirements as described in Section 87, with the exception of Section 87(a)(1). A minimum of 20 hours of continuing education shall be completed in the one-year period immediately preceding the time of renewal, 12 hours of which must be in technical subject areas described in Section 88(a)(1) 87(a)(2). (e)(f) The holder of a license in an inactive status may convert to an active status prior to the next renewal by meeting the continuing education requirements as described in Section 87.1 80.1.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 462 and 5010, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 462, Business and Professions Code.

§80.1 Conversion to Active Status Prior to Renewal.

- (a) A licensee who has renewed his or her license in an inactive status may convert the license to an active status prior to the next license expiration date by performing the following:
- (1) Within the 24-month period prior to converting to an active status, complete 80 hours of continuing education credit as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (a)(3), including the Ethics Continuing Education Requirement described in Section 87(b). A minimum of 20 hours shall be completed in the one-year period immediately preceding conversion to an active status, with a minimum of 12 hours of the 20 required hours in technical subject areas described in Section 87(a)(2);
- (2) complete the regulatory review course described in Section 87.8 if more than six years have elapsed since the licensee last completed the course;
- (3) apply to the Board in writing requesting to convert the license to an active status; and
- (4) complete any continuing education that is required pursuant to subsection (k) of Section 89.

- (b) A licensee with a license in an inactive status may not practice public accountancy until the Board approves the application for conversion of the license to an active status. (c) A licensee who, during the 24 months prior to converting his/her license to an active status, planned, directed, or conducted substantial portions of field work, or reported on financial or compliance audits of a governmental agency shall complete 24 hours of continuing education in governmental auditing as described in Section 87(c) as part of the 80 hours of continuing education required to convert his/her license to an active status under subsection (a). A licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (d).
- (d) A licensee who, during the 24 months prior to converting his/her license to an active status, planned, directed, or performed substantial portions of the work or reported on an audit, review, compilation, or attestation service shall complete 24 hours of continuing education in accounting and auditing as described in Section 87(d) as part of the 80 hours of continuing education required to convert his/her license to an active status under subsection (a).
- (e) A licensee who must complete continuing education pursuant to subsections (c) and/or (d) shall also complete an additional four hours of continuing education specifically related to the prevention, detection, and/or reporting of fraud affecting financial statements as described in Section 87(e). This continuing education shall be part of the 80 hours of continuing education required by subsection (a), but shall not be part of the continuing education required by subsections (c) or (d).

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 462, 5010, and 5027 Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 462, 5027, and 5028, Business and Professions Code.

§ 80.2. Continuing Education Requirements Following Conversion to Active Status During the Renewal Period.

- (a) All continuing education required by this section must be completed on or after the date of conversion to active status.
- (b) Once a license is converted to an active status, the licensee must complete 20 hours of continuing education as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (a)(3) for each full six month period from the date of license status conversion to the next license expiration date in order to fulfill the continuing education requirement for license renewal. If the time period between the date of license status conversion and the next license expiration date is less than six full months, no continuing education is required for license renewal.
- (c) Once a license is converted to an active status, a licensee who engages in financial or compliance auditing of a governmental agency at any time between the date of license status conversion and the next license expiration date shall complete six hours of governmental auditing continuing education as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required under subsection (b). Continuing education in the areas of governmental accounting and auditing shall meet the requirements of Section 87(c). A licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (d).

- (d) Once a license is converted to an active status, a licensee who engages in audit, review, compilation, or attestation services at any time between the date of license status conversion and the license expiration date shall complete six hours of continuing education in accounting and auditing as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required under subsection (b). Continuing education in the areas of accounting and auditing shall meet the requirements of Section 87(d).
- (e) If a license expired as defined in Section 81(b)(2) after the expiration date immediately following conversion to active status, the licensee must complete an additional 20 hours of continuing education as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (a)(3) for each full six month period from the date of license expiration to the date on which the licensee applies for license renewal, up to a total of 80 hours of continuing education in order to renew. If the time period between the date the license expired and the date on which the licensee applies for license renewal is less than six full months, no additional continuing education is required for license renewal.
- (1) All continuing education required by this section shall be completed in the two-year period immediately preceding the date on which the licensee applies for license renewal. If the date the licensee applies for license renewal is less than two years from the date of license status conversion, all continuing education must be completed on or after the date of license status conversion.
- (2) A licensee who is required to complete a total of 80 hours of continuing education pursuant to this subsection shall also complete, as a part of the 80 hours, the following: (A) Four hours of ethics education pursuant to Section 87(b).
- (B) If the licensee is subject to the continuing education requirements of subsection (c) or (d), four hours of continuing education specifically related to the prevention, detection, and/or reporting of fraud affecting financial statements. This continuing education shall not be part of the continuing education required by subsection (c) or (d). (f) Failure to Comply.

A licensee's willful failure to comply with the requirements of this section shall constitute cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 5100(g) of the Accountancy Act.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 462, 5010, and 5027 Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 462, 5027, and 5028, Business and Professions Code.

§ 81. Continuing Education Requirements for Renewing an Expired License.

- (a) As a condition for renewing a license in an active status, a licensee renewing an expired license shall adhere to the basic requirements described in Section 87 in the two-year period immediately preceding the date on which the licensee applies for license renewal. No carryover of continuing education is permitted from one license renewal period to another.
- (b) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
- (1) <u>"Date of on which the licensee applies for license renewal"</u> shall mean the date the license application, including the applicable renewal and delinquency fee, is postmarked on the envelope.
- (2) "Expired" license shall mean delinquent, lapsed, or a late renewal that is postmarked after the licensee's last or most recent license expiration date, up to five years.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 5026, 5027, 5028 and 5051, Business and Professions Code.

§ 87. Basic Requirements.

- (a) 80 Hours. As a condition for renewing a license in an active status, a licensee shall complete at least 80 hours of qualifying continuing education as described in Section 88 in the two-year period immediately preceding license expiration, and meet the reporting requirements described in Section 89(a). A licensee engaged in the practice of public accountancy as defined in Section 5051 of the Business and Professions Code is required to hold a license in an active status. No carryover of continuing education is permitted from one license renewal period to another.
- (1) A licensee renewing a license in an active status-after December 31, 2011, shall complete a minimum of 20 hours in each year of the two-year license renewal period, with a minimum of 12 hours of the required 20 hours in technical subject areas as described in Section 88(a)(1) subsection (a)(2).
- (2) Licensees shall complete a minimum of 50 percent of the required continuing education hours in the following technical subject areas: accounting, auditing, fraud, taxation, consulting, financial planning, ethics as defined in subsection (b), regulatory review as defined in Section 87.8, computer and information technology (except for word processing), and specialized industry or government practices that focus primarily upon the maintenance and/or enhancement of the public accounting skills and knowledge needed to competently practice public accounting.
- (3) Licensees may claim no more than 50 percent of the required number of continuing education hours in the following non-technical subject areas: communication skills, word processing, sales, marketing, motivational techniques, negotiation skills, office management, practice management, and personnel management.
- (4) Programs in the following subject areas are not acceptable continuing education: personal growth, self-realization, spirituality, personal health and/or fitness, sports and recreation, foreign languages and cultures and other subjects which will not contribute directly to the professional competence of the licensee.
- (b) Ethics Continuing Education Requirement

A licensee renewing a license in an active status after December 31, 2009 shall complete four hours of the 80 hours of continuing education required pursuant to subsection (a) in an ethics course. The course subject matter specified pertaining to shall consist of one or more of the following areas: a review of nationally recognized codes of conduct emphasizing how the codes relate to professional responsibilities; case-based instruction focusing on real-life situational learning; ethical dilemmas facing the accounting profession; or business ethics, ethical sensitivity, and consumer expectations. Programs in the following subject areas are not acceptable toward meeting this requirement: sexual harassment, workplace harassment, or workplace violence. Courses must be a minimum of one hour as described in Section 88.2.

(c) Government Auditing Continuing Education Requirement.

A licensee who engages in planning, directing, conducting substantial portions of field work, or reporting on financial or compliance audits of a governmental agency shall

complete 24 <u>hours</u> of the 80 hours required pursuant to subsection (a) in the areas of governmental accounting, auditing or related subjects. This continuing education shall be completed in the same two-year license renewal period as the report is issued. A governmental agency is defined as any department, office, commission, authority, board, government-owned corporation, or other independent establishment of any branch of federal, state or local government. Related subjects are those which maintain or enhance the licensee's knowledge of governmental operations, laws, regulations or reports; any special requirements of governmental agencies; subjects related to the specific or unique environment in which the audited entity operates; and other auditing subjects which may be appropriate to government auditing engagements. A licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (d).

- (d) Accounting and Auditing Continuing Education Requirement.
- A licensee who engages in planning, directing, performing substantial portions of the work, or reporting on an audit, review, compilation, or attestation service, shall complete 24 hours of the 80 hours of continuing education required pursuant to subsection (a) in the course subject matter pertaining to financial statement preparation and/or reporting (whether such statements are prepared on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles or other comprehensive bases of accounting), auditing, reviews, compilations, industry accounting, attestation services, or assurance services. This continuing education shall be completed in the same two-year license renewal period as the report is issued. If no report is issued because the financial statements are not intended for use by third parties, the continuing education shall be completed in the same two-year license renewal period as the financial statements are submitted to the client.
- (e) A licensee who must complete continuing education pursuant to subsections (c) and/or (d) of this section shall also complete an additional eight four hours of continuing education specifically related to the detection and/or reporting of fraud in financial statements prevention, detection, and/or reporting of fraud affecting financial statements. This continuing education shall be part of the 80 hours of continuing education required by subsection (a), but shall not be part of the continuing education required by subsections (c) or (d).

(f) New Licensees.

- (1) A licensee receiving an initial license shall be required to complete 20 hours of continuing education as described in Section 88, for each full six month interval in the initial license period as a condition of renewing a license in an active status.
- (2) A licensee engaged in governmental auditing, as described in subsection (c), at any time during the initial license period shall complete six hours of governmental continuing education, as described in subsection (c), as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required for renewing the license in an active status. A licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (f)(3).
- (3) A licensee who provides audit, review, compilation, or attestation services, as described in subsection (d), at any time during the initial license period shall complete six hours of accounting and auditing continuing education, as described in subsection (d), as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required for renewing the license in an active status.

(4) If the initial license period is less than six full months, there is no continuing education required for renewing the license in an active status.

(g)(f) Failure to Comply.

A licensee's willful failure to comply with the requirements of this section shall constitute cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 5100(g) of the Accountancy Act.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 5026, 5027, 5028 and 5051, Business and professions Code.

§ 87.1. Conversion to Active Status Prior to Renewal.

- (a) A licensee who has renewed his/her license in an inactive status may convert the license to an active status prior to the next license expiration date by (1) completing 80 hours of continuing education credit as described in Section 88, to include the Ethics Continuing Education Requirement described in Section 87(b), within the 24-month period prior to converting to active status, of which a minimum of 20 hours shall be completed in the one-year period immediately preceding conversion to an active status, with a minimum of 12 hours in subject areas described in subsection (a)(1) of Section 88; (2) completing the regulatory review course described in Section 87.8 if more than six years have elapsed since the licensee last completed the course; (3) applying to the Board in writing requesting to convert the license to an active status; and (4) completing any continuing education that is required pursuant to subsection (j) of Section 89. The licensee may not practice public accounting until the application for conversion of the license to an active status has been approved.
- (b) A licensee who, during the 24 months prior to converting his/her license to an active status, planned, directed, or conducted substantial portions of field work, or reported on financial or compliance audits of a governmental agency shall complete 24 hours of continuing education in governmental accounting and auditing as described in Section 87(c) as part of the 80 hours of continuing education required to convert his/her license to an active status under subsection (a). A licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (c).
- (c) A licensee who, during the 24 months prior to converting his/her license to an active status, planned, directed, or performed substantial portions of the work or reported on an audit, review, compilation, or attestation service shall complete 24 hours of continuing education in accounting and auditing as described in Section 87(d) as part of the 80 hours of continuing education required to his/her license to an active status under subsection (a).
- (d) A licensee who must complete continuing education pursuant to subsections (b) and/or (c) of this section shall also complete an additional eight hours of continuing education specifically related to the detection and/or reporting of fraud in financial statements as described in Section 87(e). This continuing education shall be part of the 80 hours of continuing education required by subsection (a), but shall not be part of the continuing education required by subsections (b) or (c).
- (e) Once a license is converted to an active status, the licensee must complete 20 hours of continuing education as described in Section 88 for each full six month period from the date of license conversion to an active status to the next license expiration date in

order to fulfill the continuing education requirement for license renewal. If the time period between the date of change to an active status and the next license expiration date is less than six full months, no additional continuing education is required for license renewal.

- (f) Once a license is converted to an active status, a licensee who engages in financial or compliance auditing of a governmental agency at any time between the date of license conversion to an active status and the next license expiration date shall complete six hours of governmental continuing education as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required under subsection (e). Continuing education in the areas of governmental accounting and auditing shall meet the requirements of Section 87(c). A licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (g).
- (g) Once a license is converted to an active status, a licensee who engages in audit, review, compilation, or attestation services at any time between the date of license conversion to an active status and the next license expiration date shall complete six hours of continuing education in accounting and auditing as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required under subsection (e). Continuing education in the areas of accounting and auditing shall meet the requirements of Section 87(d).

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5028, Business and Professions Code.

§ 87.1. Continuing Education Requirements for New Licensees.

- (a) All continuing education must be completed on or after the date the initial license was issued.
- (b) Once a license is issued, the licensee must complete 20 hours of continuing education as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (a)(3) for each full six month period from the date the initial license was issued to the first license expiration date in order to fulfill the continuing education requirement for license renewal. If the time period between the date the initial license was issued and the first license expiration date is less than six full months, no continuing education is required for license renewal.
- (c) A licensee who is required to complete a total of 80 hours of continuing education pursuant to subsection (b) shall also complete four hours of ethics education pursuant to Section 87(b).
- (d) Once a license is issued, a licensee who engages in financial or compliance auditing of a governmental agency at any time between the date the initial license was issued and the first license expiration date shall complete six hours of governmental auditing continuing education as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required under subsection (b). Continuing education in the areas of governmental accounting and auditing shall meet the requirements of Section 87(c). A licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (e).
- (e) Once a license is issued, a licensee who engages in audit, review, compilation, or attestation services at any time between the date the initial license was issued and the first license expiration date shall complete six hours of continuing education in

accounting and auditing as part of each 20 hours of continuing education required under subsection (b). Continuing education in the areas of accounting and auditing shall meet the requirements of Section 87(d).

- (f) A licensee who is required to complete a total of 80 hours of continuing education pursuant to this section and must complete continuing education pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) shall also complete an additional four hours of continuing education specifically related to the prevention, detection, and/or reporting of fraud affecting financial statements. This continuing education shall be part of the total hours of continuing education required by this section, but shall not be part of the continuing education required by subsection (d) or (e).
- (g) If an initial license expires as defined in Section 81(b)(2), the licensee must complete an additional 20 hours of continuing education as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (a)(3) for each full six month period from the date of license expiration to the date on which the licensee applies for license renewal, up to a total of 80 hours of continuing education. If the time period between the date the license expired and the date on which the licensee applies for license renewal is less than six full months, no additional continuing education is required for license renewal.
- (h) All continuing education required by this section shall be completed in the two-year period immediately preceding the date on which the licensee applies for license renewal is less than two years from the date the initial license was issued, all continuing education must be completed on or after the date the initial license was issued.

 (i) Failure to Comply.

A licensee's willful failure to comply with the requirements of this section shall constitute cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 5100(g) of the Accountancy Act.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5028, Business and Professions Code.

§ 87.7. Continuing Education in the Accountancy Act, Board Regulations, and Other Rules of Professional Conduct.

- (a) In order to renew a license in an active status a licensee shall, within the six years preceding the license expiration date, complete a continuing education course on the provisions of the Accountancy Act and the Board of Accountancy Regulations, application to current practice, and other rules of professional conduct. Such course shall be approved by the Board prior to the licensee receiving continuing education credit for the course and shall be a minimum of 8 hours. The eight hours shall be counted towards the 80 hours required pursuant to Section 87.
- (b) The operative date for this regulation is based on the last two digits of the license number according to the following schedule: for license numbers ending with 01-33 the operative date is January 1, 1998, for license numbers ending with 34-66 the operative date is January 1, 2000, for license numbers ending with 67-00 the operative date is January 1, 2002.
- (c) Course providers shall apply to the Board for approval of the course specified in Subsection (a), on Form CE-PCE-1 (9/96), Professional Conduct and Ethics Application

- for Course Approval. The term of approval shall be for a two (2) year period. The Board may cancel its approval during this two year period if the Board determines that the course fails to meet the criteria specified in this Subsection. Approval shall be based on the following criteria:
- (1) The course shall be a formal educational program that meets the requirements set forth in Sections 88, 88.1, and 88.2. 58
- (2) The course shall have written educational goals and specific learning objectives, as well as a syllabus which provides a general outline, instructional objectives and a summary of topics for the course. A copy of the educational goals, learning objectives and course syllabus shall be submitted by the provider with the approval application.
- (3) The course shall provide participants with the current California Accountancy Act and California Board of Accountancy Regulations (or summary thereof).
- (4) Any self-study course shall require a 90 percent passing score on a test given at the conclusion of the course. The test shall be submitted along with the course materials for approval.
- (5) A certificate of completion which includes the provider approval number shall be issued to each licensee who has satisfactorily completed the course.
- (6) The course content shall include the following:
- (A) A review and update of the current California Accountancy Act and the Board of Accountancy Regulations.
- (B) Information which will provide an understanding of how the Statutes, Regulations and cases relate to current practice situations.
- (C) A review of nationally recognized Codes of Professional Conduct as they relate to professional responsibility.
- (D) A discussion of recent relevant cases on ethics and professional responsibilities for the accounting profession.
- (E) A bibliography of recent publications and cases on professional conduct and ethics for the accounting profession.
- (d) Upon receiving approval from the Board, the provider of the Professional Conduct and Ethics course required in Subsection (a) may represent the course in promotional materials as being approved by the Board during the term of approval.
- (e) On a random basis established by the Board or at the Board's request or in response to complaints about a particular course, the Board may review the records of a provider to ensure compliance with the criteria specified in this Section. Within 15 days of receipt of written notification, the provider shall submit or make available to the Board all material deemed necessary by the Board to determine whether the course complies. The Board may cancel its approval for a course found not to be in compliance.
- (f) Approved course providers may allow a secondary provider to present their course through a site license, contractual arrangement, or other type of agreement.
- (g) For every course presentation, including any made by a secondary provider, organization or party, the original approved provider (primary provider) who entered into the approval agreement with the California Board of Accountancy shall:
- (1) Retain a written outline of the course and completion records to reflect the actual participant attendance, or in the case of self-study courses, passing test scores of 90 percent or higher. The retention period shall be eight years.

- (2) Ensure that all participants who complete the course receive a certificate of completion, including all information specified in Section 89(b). If a secondary provider presented the course, the certificate shall identify both the primary and secondary providers.
- (3) Be responsible for the quality and content of the course by requiring and ensuring that the course be presented only by qualified instructors and/or discussion leaders, and that presentations always include all components and content areas represented in the approval application.
- (4) Periodically update course content to reflect current laws, regulations, case law decisions and standards of practice.
- (h) Licensees may claim continuing education credit earned from completing a Board-approved course designed in fulfillment of this section for the Ethics Continuing Education Requirement described in Section 87(b) and/or for the Regulatory Review Requirement described in Section 87.8 provided the course is completed prior to January 1, 2011 and reported to the Board prior to January 1, 2012.
- (i) Board-approved course providers may continue to offer the course, described in section 87.7(a) until December 31, 2010 for licensees to receive continuing education credit in fulfillment of the Ethics Continuing Education Requirement described in Section 87(b) and/or for the Regulatory Review Requirement described in Section 87.8.

 (j) After January 1, 2010, the Board will no longer approve courses specific to this requirement.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5027, Business and Professions Code.

§ 87.8. Regulatory Review Course.

- (a) In order to renew a license in an active status after December 31, 2009, a licensee shall, within the six years preceding the license expiration date, complete a continuing education course on the provisions of the California Accountancy Act and the California Board of Accountancy Regulations specific to the practice of public accountancy in California emphasizing the provisions applicable to current practice situations. The course also will include an overview of historic and recent disciplinary actions taken by the Board, highlighting the misconduct which led to licensees being disciplined. The course shall be a minimum of two hours, and a licensee shall select from a list of Board-approved courses. The two hours can be counted towards the 80 hours required pursuant to Section 87.
- (b) A licensee shall report completion of the Regulatory Review course at the time of renewal. A licensee, licensed prior to the implementation of Section 87.8, shall maintain their existing reporting date used for the professional conduct and ethics requirement to report the completion of the Regulatory Review course.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5027, Business and Professions Code

§ 87.9. Offering a Regulatory Review Course.

- (a) Prior to offering a regulatory review course which can be claimed by a licensee to fulfill Section 87.8, course providers shall apply to the Board for approval of the course by completing Initial Application Package CE-RR-1 (07/09), Regulatory Review Application for Course Approval, which is hereby incorporated by reference. Approval shall be based on the following criteria:
- (1) The course shall be a formal educational program that meets the requirements described in Sections 88, 88.1, and 88.2, excluding Section 88.2(c)(1)(A) and (c)(1)(B).
- (2) The course shall provide participants with the current California Accountancy Act and California Board of Accountancy Regulations.
- (3) A self-study course shall require a 90 percent passing score on a test given at the conclusion of the course. The test shall not include true/false type questions. The test shall be submitted along with the course materials for approval.
- (4) A self-study course is required to demonstrate an average completion time of two 50-minute continuing education hours by pre-testing the documentation from a minimum of four current and active certified public accountants simulating the manner in which the course will be completed and showing the length of time spent by each participant to complete the course. Pre-testing participants are required to be independent of the group that developed and/or are offering the course and provide feedback on the level of difficulty of the course.
- (5) If the course is a component of a larger program, the two hours devoted to the regulatory review course must be continuous and uninterrupted.
- (6) The course content shall include the following:
- (A) A review of the current California Accountancy Act, specific to the practice of public accountancy in California, and shall include a review of the following California Accountancy Act Articles: Articles 1.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 5.5, 6, 6.5 and 7.
- (B) A review of the current California Board of Accountancy Regulations, specific to the practice of public accountancy in California, and shall include a review of the following Accountancy Regulations Articles: Articles 1, 6, 9, 12, 12.5, and 13.
- (C) The review of the California Accountancy Act and California Board of Accountancy Regulations must include a discussion on how the specified articles relate to the practice of public accountancy in California, including a review of historic and recent disciplinary actions taken by the Board, highlighting the misconduct which led to licensees being disciplined.
- (b) The term of the approval shall be for a two-year period. In order to maintain Board approval, providers shall submit Renewal Application Package CE-RR-2 (07/09), Regulatory Review Approval Continuance Application, which is hereby incorporated by reference, prior to the end of the two-year period.
- (c) Upon receiving approval from the Board, the provider of the Regulatory Review course required under Section 87.8 may represent the course in promotional materials during the term of approval, as being approved by the Board.
- (d) The Board may review the records of a provider to ensure compliance with the criteria specified in this Section. Within 15 days of receipt of written notification, the provider shall submit or make available all material requested by the Board. The Board may cancel its approval for a course found not to be in compliance.

- (e) For every course presentation, the provider that enters into the approval agreement with the Board shall:
- (1) Retain completion records to reflect the actual participant attendance, or in the case of a self-study course, passing test scores of 90 percent or higher. The retention period shall be eight years.
- (2) Be responsible for the quality and content of the course by requiring and ensuring that the course include all components and content areas represented in the approval application.
- (3) Update course content to reflect current laws, regulations, and enforcement violations.
- (f) A provider whose course is denied approval or when a previous approval is canceled by Board staff may appeal such action to the Board. The appeal shall be filed within six months of the action being appealed or the mailing of written notification, whichever is later. The appeal shall contain the following information:
- (1) The name and business address of the provider making the appeal.
- (2) The action being appealed and the date of any written notification from the Board.
- (3) A summary of the basis for the appeal, including any information which the provider believes was not given adequate consideration by staff.
- (g) The Board will consider only appeals based on information previously considered by staff. If the provider wishes to submit for consideration additional evidence or information not previously submitted to staff, such additional information should be submitted directly to staff with the request that its previous action be reconsidered. An appeal based on evidence or information not previously submitted to staff will be referred by the Board to staff for further consideration.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5027, Business and Professions Code.

§ 88. Programs Which Qualify.

- (a) (1) The overriding consideration in determining whether a specific program qualifies as acceptable continuing education is that it be a formal program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competence of a licensee in public practice. It is the obligation of each licensee to select a course of study, consistent with the requirements of this section and Sections 88.1 and 88.2, which will contribute directly to his/her professional competence.
- (1) Licensees shall complete a minimum of 50 percent of the required continuing education hours in the following subject areas: accounting, auditing, fraud, taxation, consulting, financial planning, ethics as defined in Section 87(b), regulatory review as defined in Section 87.8, computer and information technology (except for word processing), and specialized industry or government practices that focus primarily upon the maintenance and/or enhancement of the public accounting skills and knowledge needed to competently practice public accounting.
- (2) Licensees may claim no more than 50 percent of the required number of continuing education hours in the following subject areas: communication skills, word processing,

- sales, marketing, motivational techniques, negotiation skills, office management, practice management, and personnel management.
- (3) Programs in the following subject areas are not acceptable continuing education: personal growth, self-realization, spirituality, personal health and/or fitness, sports and recreation, foreign languages and cultures and other subjects which will not contribute directly to the professional competence of the licensee.
- (4-2) A formal program of learning is an instructional activity that meets the requirements of this section and Sections 88.1 and 88.2 or a course for which academic credit is granted by a university, college, or other institution of learning accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency.
- (b) The following types of live presentation programs are deemed to qualify as acceptable continuing education provided the standards outlined in Section 88(a), Section 88.1, and Section 88.2 are maintained.
- (1) Professional development programs of national and state accounting organizations.
- (2) Technical session at meetings of national and state accounting organizations and their chapters which are designed as formal educational programs.
- (3) University or college courses:
- (i) Credit courses -each semester hour credit shall equal 15 hours toward the requirement. Each quarter hour credit shall equal 10 hours.
- (ii) Non credit courses -each classroom hour will equal one qualifying hour.
- (4) Other formal educational programs provided the program meets the required standards.
- (c) Group Internet-Based Programs (Webcast): Programs that enable a licensee to participate from a computer in an interactive course presented by a live instructor at a distant location are qualifying, provided the program is based upon materials specifically developed for instructional use and meets the requirements of Section 88(a), Section 88.1 and Section 88.2. Group viewing of a webcast program is permissible only where a live facilitator logs into the program to ask questions on behalf of the group. The live facilitator shall document and verify group participation and attendance in accordance with the requirements of Section 88.1 and 88.2.
- (d) Formal correspondence or other individual study programs are qualifying provided:
- (1) the program is based upon materials specifically developed for instructional use, and (2) the program meets the requirements of Section 88(a), Section 88.1, and Section 88.2.
- (3) the program is completed within one year from the date of purchase or enrollment, and
- (4) the licensee receives a passing score.
- (e) Self-study modules for national examinations that contribute to the professional competency of a licensee in public practice, such as the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Certification Examination or the Certified Management Accountant examination qualify as acceptable continuing education if the modules meet the above requirements of subsection (d).
- (e)(f) The credit Credit as an instructor, discussion leader, or speaker will shall be allowed for any meeting or program provided that the session is one which would meet meets the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 88(a) subsection (a)(1), Section 88.1, and Section 88.2. The credit allowed an instructor, discussion

leader, or a speaker will shall be on the basis of actual presentation hours, plus up to two additional hours for actual preparation time for each hour taught. The maximum credit for such preparation and teaching will shall not exceed 50 percent of the renewal period requirement. For repeat presentations, an instructor shall receive no credit unless the instructor can demonstrate that the program content was substantially changed and that such change required significant additional study or research. Credit for licensees attending, not as instructors, discussion leader, or speakers, is limited to the actual meeting time.

- (f)(g) Credit may be allowed by the Board on an hour-for-hour basis for the following activities:
- (1) Writing published articles and books provided the publisher is not under the control of the licensee, and the article and/or book would contribute to his/her professional competence.
- (2) Writing instructional materials for any continuing education program which meets the requirements of Section 88(a) subsection (a)(1), Section 88.1, and Section 88.2,
- (3) Writing questions for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination.

 The maximum credit allowed under this subsection (subsection f) shall not exceed 25 percent of the renewal period requirement.
- (4) Performing a technical review of instructional materials for any continuing education program which meets the requirements of subsection (a)(1), Section 88.1, and Section 88.2. For the purposes of this section a technical review shall mean reviewing for technical accuracy, currency of the information, and attainment of stated learning objectives.
- (h) The maximum credit allowed under subsection (g) shall not exceed 25 percent of the renewal period requirement.
- (i) In order for any continuing education hours to be acceptable to the Board under this article, the hours shall be completed in a program which qualifies under this section or Section 87.9.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5027, Business and Professions Code.

§ 88.1. Provider Requirements.

(a) Live Presentation

In order to qualify as acceptable continuing education under Section 88(b) the provider of the <u>a</u> live presentation program must:

- (1) Require attendance and retain for a period of six <u>five</u> years a record of attendance that accurately assigns the appropriate number of contact hours for participants including those who arrive late or leave early.
- (2) Retain for a period of six five years written educational goals and specific learning objectives, as well as a syllabus, which provides a general outline, instructional objectives, and a summary of topics for the course. A copy of the educational goals, learning objectives, and course syllabus shall be made available to the California Board of Accountancy upon request.

- (3) Issue a certificate of completion, with verification certified by a program provider representative such as a signature or seal, to each licensee upon satisfactory completion of the course and retain records of licensees receiving certificates of completion for a period of six five years. The amount of credit reflected on the certificate of completion shall be calculated in accordance with Section 88.2(a). The certificate of completion must delineate the subject areas, as described in Section 88(a)(1) and (2) 87(a)(2) and (3), for which the licensee may claim credit.
- (b) Group Internet-Based Programs (Webcast)
- In order to qualify as acceptable continuing education under Section 88(c), the provider of the <u>a</u> Group Internet-Based Program (Webcast) must be in compliance with requirements below:
- (1) Require and monitor attendance throughout the program by using attendance monitoring devices such as polling, questions, or surveys. The program shall include a minimum of two three monitoring events each half hour, at last least one of which occurs at an irregular interval.
- (2) Have a live instructor while the program is being presented and a feature allowing participants to send questions/comments directly to the instructor and receive answers during the program.
- (3) If it is recorded or archived, have a live subject matter expert facilitate the program (webcast) to answer questions. A recorded or archived program that does not have a live subject matter expert must meet the self-study requirements of subsection (c), Section 88, and Section 88.2(c).
- (3)(4) Retain for a period of six <u>five</u> years a record of attendance that accurately assigns the appropriate number of participation hours for participants.
- (4)(5) Retain for a period of six five years written educational goals and specific learning objectives, as well as a syllabus, which provides a general outline, instructional objectives, and a summary of topics for the course. A copy of the educational goals, learning objectives, and course syllabus shall be made available to the California Board of Accountancy upon request.
- (5)(6) Issue a certificate of completion, with verification certified by a program provider representative such as a signature or seal, to each licensee upon satisfactory completion of the course. Satisfactory completion shall at a minimum require responding to at least 75 percent of the monitoring events described in Section subsection 88.1(b)(1) during the period for which continuing education credit is being granted. Retain records of licensees receiving certificates of completion for a period of six five years. The amount of credit shall be displayed on the certificate of completion and shall be calculated in accordance with Section 88.2(b). The certificate of completion must delineate the subject areas, as described in Section 88(a)(1) and (2) 87(a)(2) and (3), for which the licensee may claim credit.
- (6)(7) Have a written policy to address rescheduling and the granting of partial credit in the event of a technology failure, and make that policy available to the Board upon request.
- (c) Self-Study

In order to qualify as acceptable continuing education under Section 88(c)(d) the sponsor provider of the a self-study course must:

- (1) Retain for a period of six five years written educational goals and specific learning objectives, as well as a syllabus, which provides a general outline, instructional objectives, and a summary of topics for the course. A copy of the educational goals, learning objectives, and course syllabus shall be made available to the California Board of Accountancy upon request.
- (2) Issue a certificate of completion, with verification certified by a program provider representative such as a signature or seal, to each licensee upon satisfactory completion of the course and retain records of licensees receiving certificates of completion for a period of six five years. The amount of credit shall be displayed on the certificate of completion and shall be calculated in accordance with Section 88.2(c). The certificate of completion must delineate the subject areas, as described in Section 88(a)(1) and (2) 87(a)(2) and (3), for which the licensee may claim credit.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 5026 and 5027, Business and Professions Code.

§ 88.2. Program Measurements.

- (a) Live Presentation
- In order to qualify as acceptable continuing education under Section 88(b) a live presentation program must:
- (1) Be measured in 50-minute class hours. A program must be at least one 50- minute class hour in length to be acceptable continuing education. For a program composed of several segments in which individual segments are less than 50 minutes, the sum of the segments, in increments not less than 25 minutes, may be added together to equal a full 50-minute class hour. For a program that is longer than one 50-minute class hour, credit shall be granted for additional 25-minute segments (one-half of a 50-minute class hour). Only class hours or the equivalent (and not participant hours devoted to preparation or study time) will be used to measure the hours of continuing education.
- (2) Any program designed pursuant to Section 87(b) must be a minimum of one 50-minute class hour. Should a course be comprised of multiple subject areas as described in Section 88(a)(1) 87(a)(2), those components specific to Section 87(b) must be a minimum of one 50-minute class hour.
- (3) Meet the provider requirements for live presentation under Section 88.1(a).
- (b) Group Internet-Based Program (Webcast) In order to qualify as acceptable continuing education under Section 88(c), a Group Internet-Based Program (Webcast) must:
- (1) Be measured by actual program length in 50-minute class hours. A program must be a minimum of one 50-minute class hour in length to be acceptable continuing education. For a program composed of several segments, the sum of the segments, in increments not less than 25 minutes, may be added together to equal a full 50-minute class hour. For a program that is longer than one 50- minute class hour, credit shall be granted for additional 25-minute segments (one-half of a 50-minute class hour). Only class hours or the equivalent (and not participant hours devoted to preparation or study time) will be used to measure the hours of continuing education.

- (2) Any program designed pursuant to Section 87(b) must be a minimum of one 50-minute class hour. Should a program be comprised of multiple subject areas as described in Section 88(a)(1) 87(a)(2), those components specific to Section 87(b) must be a minimum of one 50-minute class hour.
- (3) Meet the provider requirements for Group Internet-Based Program (Webcast) under Section 88.1(b).
- (c) Self-Study
- In order to qualify as acceptable continuing education under Section 88(d), any <u>a self-study</u> course, whether in electronic or paper text format, must:
- (1) Grant continuing education credit equal to the average completion time if the self-study course is designed to use learning methodologies that simulate a classroom learning process by employing significant ongoing interactive feedback to the participant regarding his/her learning progress. These courses clearly define lesson objectives and manage the participant through the learning process by (A) requiring frequent participant response to questions that test for understanding of the material presented, (B) provide evaluated feedback to incorrectly answered questions, and (C) reinforcement feedback to correctly answered questions. Evaluated feedback means a response specific to each incorrect answer to the study questions that explains why the particular answer is wrong, as each one is likely to be wrong for a different reason. Reinforcement feedback means a response to the correct answer of the study questions that restates and explains why the answer selected was correct. calculated using one of the following methods:
- (A) Demonstrating an average completion time, measured in 50-minute continuing education hours, by pre-testing the documentation from a minimum of three current and active certified public accountants simulating the manner in which the course will be completed and showing the length of time spent by each participant to complete the course. Pre-testing participants are required to be independent of the group that developed and/or are offering the course and provide feedback on the level of difficulty of the course. The continuing education credit shall be rounded down to the nearest one-half hour credit when the total minutes of the program are not equally divisible by 50.
- (B) Demonstrating an average completion time, measured in 50-minute continuing education hours, by dividing the number of words contained in the text of the required reading (excluding any material not critical to the achievement of the stated learning objectives such as the course introduction, author biography, instructions, table of contents, and supplementary reference materials) by 180, adding the actual length of time in minutes of any audio or video segments, adding the number of review questions, exercises, and final examination questions multiplied by 1.85, and dividing the total by 50. The continuing education credit shall be rounded down to the nearest one-half hour credit when the total minutes of the program are not equally divisible by 50.

 (2) Clearly define lesson objectives and manage the participant through the learning process by requiring frequent participant response to questions that test for understanding of the material presented, providing evaluated feedback to incorrectly answered questions and reinforcement feedback to correctly answered questions. For purposes of this section, evaluated feedback means a response specific to each incorrect answer to the study questions that explains why the particular answer is

wrong, as each one is likely to be wrong for a different reason. For purposes of this section, reinforcement feedback means a response to the correct answer of the study questions that restates and explains why the answer selected was correct.

 $\frac{(2)(3)}{(2)}$ Any program designed pursuant to Section 87(b) must be a minimum of one class hour. Should a program be comprised of multiple subject areas as described in Section $\frac{88(a)(1)}{(2)}$, those components specific to Section 87(b) must be a minimum of one 50-minute class hour.

- (3)(4) Require a passing score on a test given at the conclusion of the course. The test shall not include true/false type questions.
- (4) Any self-study program or component designed pursuant to Section 87(b) shall require a 90 percent passing score on a test given at the conclusion of the course. Should a program be comprised of multiple subject areas as described in Section 88(a)(1), those components specific to Section 87(b) shall require a 90 percent passing score on a test given at the conclusion of the component specific to Section 87(b) or at the conclusion of the course.
- (5) Meet the provider requirements for self-study under Section 88.1(c).

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 5026 and 5027, Business and Professions Code.

§ 89. Control and Reporting.

- (a) Upon renewal, a licensee who is required, pursuant to Section <u>80.2</u>, <u>81</u>, <u>87</u>, <u>or 87.1</u>, to obtain continuing education must provide a written statement, signed under penalty of perjury, certifying that the requisite number of continuing education hours has been obtained. The licensee shall disclose the following information concerning courses or programs claimed as qualifying continuing education <u>hours</u>:
- (1) Course title or description
- (2) Date of completion
- (3) Name of school, firm or organization providing the course or program
- (4) Method of study, i.e., whether course or program is self-study, live presentation or Group Internet-Based Program (Webcast)
- (5) Number of hours earned.
- (6) Subject areas as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (3).
- (b) If credit is claimed for completing the two hour regulatory review course specified in Section 87.8, a licensee shall obtain and retain for six years after renewal of his/her license, a certificate of completion or its equivalent disclosing the following information:
- (1) Name of licensee
- (2) Course title
- (3) Board-issued approval number for the professional conduct and ethics regulatory review course completed by the licensee
- (4) School, firm or organization providing the course
- (5) Date of completion
- (6) Verification by a program provider representative, such as a signature or seal.

- (c) If continuing education credit for attending a continuing education course is claimed, the licensee shall obtain and retain for four years after renewal a certificate of completion or its equivalent disclosing the following information:
- (1) Name of licensee in attendance
- (2) School, firm or organization conducting course
- (3) Location of course attended
- (4) Title of course or description of content
- (5) Dates of attendance except when the licensee attended a course for academic credit given by a college, university, or other institution of higher learning accredited by an association recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education, in which case the applicant may provide evidence of a grade of pass or "credit" to satisfy this requirement.
- (6) Number of hours of actual attendance except when the licensee attended a course for academic credit given by a college, university, or other institution of higher learning accredited by an association recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education, in which case the applicant may provide evidence of a grade of pass or "credit" to satisfy this requirement.
- (7) Verification by a program provider representative, such as a signature or seal.
- (8) Subject areas as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (3).
- (d) If continuing education credit is claimed for completing a self-study course, the licensee shall obtain and retain for four years after renewal <u>a receipt or its equivalent documenting the date of purchase or enrollment and a certificate of completion or its equivalent disclosing the following information:</u>
- (1) Name of licensee taking the course
- (2) School, firm, or organization providing the course
- (3) Title of course or description of contents
- (4) Date of completion
- (5) Number of hours of continued education credit granted for completing the course-
- (6) Subject areas as described in Section 87(a)(2) and (3).
- (e) If credit as an instructor, discussion leader, or speaker is claimed, the licensee shall retain for four years after renewal the following information:
- (1) School, firm or organization providing course
- (2) Location of course presented
- (3) Title of the course or description of content
- (4) Course outline
- (5) Dates and evidence of presentation
- (6) Number of hours of actual preparation time and presentation time.
- (f) If credit is claimed for writing continuing education instructional materials, the following information shall be maintained for four years after renewal:
- (1) Name of the course provider or publisher
- (2) Title of the course and a description of the instructional materials
- (3) Date of completion of the instructional materials or publication date
- (4) A copy of the instructional materials
- (5) Hours claimed.
- (g) If credit for published articles and books is claimed, the following information shall be maintained for four years after renewal:

- (1) Name and address of publisher
- (2) Title of publication
- (3) Brief description
- (4) Date(s) of publication
- (5) Copy of publication
- (6) Hours claimed
- (h) If credit for writing questions for the Uniform CPA Examination is claimed, the licensee shall obtain and retain for four years after renewal a letter or other statement from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants documenting the licensee's participation and the number of hours of continuing education credit the licensee has received.
- (i) If credit is claimed for performing a technical review of continuing education instructional materials, the following information shall be maintained for four years after renewal:
- (1) Name of the course provider or publisher,
- (2) Title of the course and a description of the instructional materials,
- (3) Date the review was completed,
- (4) A copy of the instructional materials, and
- (5) Hours claimed.
- (i)(i) The Board will may solicit and verify such information—on a test basis. If a licensee is found to have a deficiency, the licensee shall be so notified and shall be required to provide copies of the documentation required by this section. Upon request, the licensee may be granted a reasonable period of time in which to correct the deficiency. (i)(k) A licensee who is determined by the Board at renewal not to have completed the required number of hours of qualifying continuing education shall be required to make up any deficiency. A licensee who is required to make up a deficiency shall be ineligible for active status license renewal or conversion to active status pursuant to Section 87.1 80.1 until such time as documentation to support the required hours of continuing education for license renewal has been submitted and approved by the Board. (k)(l) A licensee's willful making of any false or misleading statement, in writing, regarding his/her continuing education shall constitute cause for disciplinary action pursuant to section 5100(g) of the Accountancy Act.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5010 and 5027, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5027, Business and Professions Code.

PATTI BOWERS
Executive Officer
California Board of Accountancy

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